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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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Ladies' Protestant Orphan Asylum

OF DETROIT;

AND

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

RE-PUBLISHED 1878.

DETROIT:

THE FREE PRESS BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.

1878.

*Deposited of the first directors
of the ... to the board of managers*

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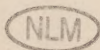
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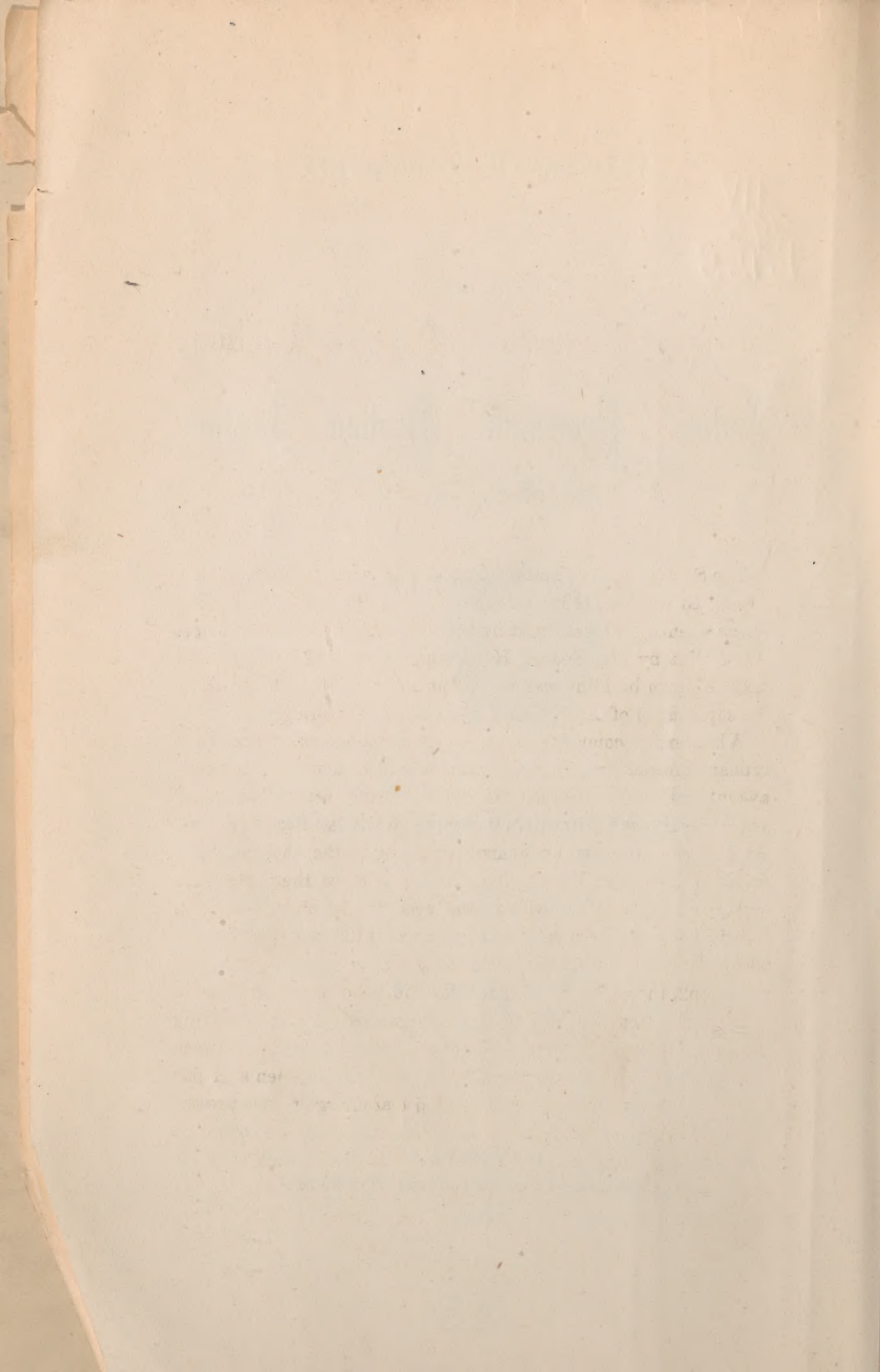
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Ladies' Protestant Orphan Asylum,

OF DETROIT.

A BRIEF HISTORY.

The Society of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, of Detroit, was organized May 23, 1836. At the close of the year a lot on Jefferson avenue, 100 feet front by 200 feet deep, was donated to the Association by Mr. George Hunt, whereon, in 1837, the present main Asylum building was erected at a cost of \$6,833.83, under the supervision of E. P. Hastings and C. C. Trowbridge.

When so far completed as to be tenantable, a matron and ten orphan children were removed from a rented house on Jefferson avenue and placed beneath its roof. During the following ten years there were thirty children recipients of its fostering care. At that time there were only five remaining in the Asylum. The family being so small it was thought best to place them at board and rent the Asylum, which was accordingly done, Rev. Mr. Leyster being the occupant at a rental of \$100 per year, which was applied in keeping the house in repair.

In 1852, there being a demand for the house by an increase of orphan children, the society was reorganized and the building reopened for their reception, and orphans and half orphans, between the age of two and twelve years, have been the recipients of our fostering care and the objects of our special charge to the present time, affording a comfortable and pleasant home for over one thousand unfortunate children of our race, of which number thirty-one are inmates of the Asylum at this present date.

On the reopening, a new board of managers was elected, of which Mrs. Col. Winder was chosen President. With characteristic energy and the aid of a few co-workers, she proceeded at once to raise funds by life-membership subscriptions and donations, to repair the building, meet current expenses, and by June, 1855, she had secured nearly *one thousand dollars for a fund*. Before the month closed that amount was raised, and the \$1,000 was placed in the hands of Mr. Samuel Zug, at 10 per cent interest per annum.

Mr. Zug held the fund until May, 1862, when he asked permission to take up his note, and deposited the money in the bank of Mr. Wm. A. Butler, where it remained nearly two years waiting for an investment *on call*. Not being expert *business men* we failed to secure such an opportunity, and as there was no interest accruing, the Secretary (Mrs. Curtis) proposed to take the money, gave her note for the amount (\$1,000) and a mortgage of \$2,500 against L. S. Driggs as collateral, guaranteeing 7 per cent on the loan.

The money was invested in New York in 5.20 Government bonds at par; in three months and four days they were sold at 12½ advance in Wall street, reinvested in stocks and notes, sold and resold until the Secretary was about to leave for Europe, when as much of the fund as could be spared was invested in bond and mortgages having from three to five years to mature.

In 1866 Miss Isabella Scott left by will to the Asylum a house on Larned street; also personal effects valued by appraisers at, and sold for, \$42. The house needed large repairs and was valued by C. H. Buel and H. P. Baldwin (members of the Board of Counsel) at \$600. Subsequently the Secretary sold the house for \$1,000, taking a mortgage on a store on Jefferson avenue, near the corner of Randolph street, valued at \$28,000, the mortgage to run five years, at 7 per cent.

To Miss Scott's administrators, Jennings and Knight, for funeral and other expenses, was paid \$244.77, drawing \$202.77 from the Asylum fund, which left the net proceeds of Miss Scott's donation, \$797.23.

In 1864 the account stood thus :

August 10, cash from bank	\$1,000 00
August 10, on deposit for expenses	321 13
May, 1876, Scott house	797 23

Total	\$2,118 36
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Expenses of the Asylum from August 10, 1864, including drainage to Bloody Run, roofing, furnish- ing school room, and daily expenses, to January 28, 1869 (4 years, 5 months and 8 days), as per bills rendered.....	\$8,436 70
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January 28, 1869.—Paid to Mrs. S. Davis, Treasurer—

Bonds and mortgages (at 10 per cent)	\$3,600 00
Bonds and mortgages (at 7 per cent)	1,000 00
Notes (at 10 per cent)	1,841 00
On deposit for current expenses	1,206 95

Total	\$7,647 95
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Gain in 4 years, 5 months and 8 days	\$5,529 59
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The Treasurer's receipts shows the amount paid into the treasury by Mrs. Curtis from March 1, 1861, to March 1, 1877, (sixteen years), to be \$28,739.92; of this sum \$9,837.65 has been from Mr. Gough's lectures.

We regret to state the report now current that the Asylum fund has reached the sum of \$30,000 is incorrect.

For the past nine years, or since 1869, Mr. A. C. McGraw has had charge of the fund. In the meantime large drafts have been made by adding a wing and other improvements upon the Asylum building.

The annual report (January 11, 1878) shows the present amount to be \$10,500, the \$500 being a recent memorial gift from Mrs. Charles Harris, of New York, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Jacob M. Howard, who, for many years, was an active, efficient and beloved officer of this Association.

MRS. P. E. CURTIS,

Recording Secretary.

DETROIT, March 10, 1878.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Every regular meeting shall be opened with reading a portion of Scripture and prayer.

The business meetings are to be held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing precisely at 3 P. M. during winter and 4 in summer.

No manager shall be at liberty to withdraw from the meeting in session without permission, and no conversation but such as relates to the business before the Board shall be allowed.

Every motion when made shall be stated from the chair. When moved and seconded, the President or presiding officer shall invite discussion, if necessary, after which she shall ask the members if they are ready for the question, which being assented to, the vote shall be taken.

No other business shall be discussed till that which has been laid before the Board be decided or postponed.

At the desire of any member of the Board the decision of a new question may be referred to the meeting succeeding that in which the question was proposed.

The decision on any question shall not be delayed longer than the succeeding meeting except by a majority of votes.

No former resolution shall be reconsidered unless called for by one of the majority, and in all cases shall be deferred to the next meeting.

When the votes are called for no person shall be allowed to decline voting.

When a motion is made and seconded the names of the yeas and nays shall be recorded.

The President or presiding officer shall give a deciding vote when the Board is equally divided.

A new organization took effect June 9, 1859, under an Act approved February 6, 1855, entitled "An Act for the Incorporation of Charitable Societies," to be governed by the following

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be called and named "THE LADIES' PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM OF DETROIT."

ARTICLE II.

The business of this Association shall be in the city of Detroit, county of Wayne, and State of Michigan.

ARTICLE III.

Its corporate existence shall be for the period of THIRTY YEARS from the acknowledgment of these Articles.

ARTICLE IV.

The object of this Association shall be to provide an Asylum for poor and destitute children under the age of twelve years, who have lost one or both parents, where their personal and religious wants may be carefully supplied, and from whence they may be placed in eligible homes, as circumstances will permit.

ARTICLE V.

This Association shall be governed by a Board of Trustees or Managers, who shall be elected annually at the annual meeting of the Association, which shall be held at the Asylum Building, in Detroit, on the second Thursday of January of each year; and such Board of Managers shall hold their office one year, when they shall be re-elected or new elections made.

ARTICLE VI.

The officers of this Association shall be a First, Second and Third Directress, a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be chosen from the Board of Managers or Trustees, at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Any person may become a member of this Association by the annual payment of one dollar or over, into the treasury, and at all meetings of the Association, such persons shall be entitled to a vote who has so paid during the previous twelve months.

ARTICLE VIII.

No person shall be elected to office who has not paid their annual dues of one dollar within the year previous to such election.

BY-LAWS.

I. DUTIES AND POWER OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees shall have power to fill vacancies in their own number, by election, from members of the Association. They shall hold meetings at least once in each month. The regular meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of each month.

It shall be their duty to retain the orphans under their care until suitable homes shall be obtained for them, unless any child shall prove an incorrigible offender against the rules of the Asylum, in which case, said child shall be delivered into the hands of the proper city officers for maintenance. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to require the best of references from persons wishing to adopt, or have bound to them as an apprentice, a child from the Asylum; and such person shall be entitled to a full history of said child, so far as known to the Association.

All persons adopting, or having bound apprentice, a child from the Asylum, shall be required to inform the Secretary, in writing, as often as twice a year, concerning the health and general conduct of said child; and in case of protracted illness or death of any such child, the Secretary shall be promptly notified, with full particulars of illness, etc.

II. COMMITTEE OF MAINTENANCE.

At each monthly meeting, two members of the Board shall be appointed a Committee of Maintenance, to hold the office for one month, whose duties shall be, under the advice of the First Directress, to furnish the supplies and attend to the wants and general management of the Asylum, and make themselves responsible during their term for the proper administration of the institution.

The First Directress and the Secretary shall be exempt from service upon this committee.

III. DIRECTRESSES.

It shall be the duty of the First Directress to preside at all meetings of the Association, and of the Managers; to call extra meetings of the latter, when, in her opinion, it is expedient, and also of the former when required so to do by a majority of the Board, or by twenty members of the Association; to carry into execution such resolutions of the Association, and of the Trustees, as are not otherwise provided for; to attend to the general interest of the institution, and to have charge of the receiving and binding out of children.

The duties of the First Directress shall devolve on the Second, in case of the failure of the First, from any cause, to discharge them; and on the Third, in case of the failure of the First or Second.

IV. SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of all the proceedings of the Association, and also of the Board of Managers; also, a register of the members of the society, and of the orphans in the Asylum; and to conduct and preserve the correspondence incident to the Association, being aided by an Assistant Secretary, to be appointed by her for that purpose.

V. TREASURER.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all moneys or other kind of property belonging to the Association, and to pay out the same only by the order of the Board of Trustees, signed by two of the Directresses, and attested by the Secretary; and such order shall be to the Treasurer a sufficient receipt.

The Treasurer shall give security for the faithful performance of her duty as the Board of Trustees shall approve—that security not being her husband.

VI. MATRON.

The Matron shall make a report at each monthly meeting of the Board, of the number and condition of the children, and shall

report in full annually to the First Directress, previous to the annual meeting.

VII. ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM AND ITS RECORDS.

The Asylum shall be at all times open to the visits of all members of the Association, and the Treasurer and Secretary's books may be inspected by any of them at any general meeting of the Association.

VIII. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall, previous to each annual meeting, make a full annual report to the First Directress, who shall report in full upon the position and interests of the Association to each annual meeting.

IX. BOARD OF COUNSEL.

There shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees six gentlemen, to act as a Board of Counsel, whose duty it shall be to advise in all matters referred to them by the Board of Trustees, or any of its committees, of whom three shall form a quorum.

X. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Any person may become a Life Member of this Association by the gift of THIRTY DOLLARS to the Association at any one time.

XI.

The Board of Trustees or Managers shall have discretionary power to receive children under the age of two years, but it shall not be obligatory upon them to do so, unless their income from funds or any other source, shall be permanently sufficient to meet all expenses.

XII.

This institution shall be closed against visitors on Sundays, except in cases of severe illness. All other days, on suitable occasions, the Asylum will be open. Saturdays—there being no school—it is more convenient for children to receive their friends.

XIII.

The duties of the Matron shall be to take the general supervision of the Asylum, to keep it clean, neat, and the family quiet and in order; to have but little, if any, company entertained, except by permission of the officers of the Board; to keep all the keys belonging to the Asylum in her immediate possession, to keep the store-room locked at all times and to personally deal out the stores kept therein. In the necessary absence of the Matron she shall, unless otherwise ordered by the officers of the Board, detail some person who shall have charge of the Asylum and perform all the duties of the Matron. It shall be her duty to make a report at each monthly meeting of the Board of all children received, and by whose order, and of all children removed, where to, and by whose order, and whether removed for adoption, indenture or on probation. It shall be her duty to keep a record of all cash and donations received and money paid out, and report the same at each monthly meeting of the Board.

XIV.

It shall be the duty of the Teacher to see the school is opened at nine o'clock and closed at twelve; opened at two and closed at four. It is also the duty of the teacher to give the children their bath on Saturdays; see their clothes are kept in order, and assist in any other duty the Matron may direct.

XV.

It shall be the duty of the First Directress to receive and dispose of children by adoption, indenture or otherwise. In her absence or illness, she may appoint some member of the Board of Trustees to act in her stead. It is further required that ladies disposing of children, require unexceptionable references; and also to be kept advised by letter, or otherwise, of the condition and well-being of such children until they obtain the age of 13 years. In case a child fall into the hands of improper persons, it shall be the duty of such party as gave orders for its removal, to see the child is returned to the Asylum or placed in a more desirable home.

XVI.

The Board of Managers are required to be present at monthly meetings, that they may serve on committees or attend to other duties that come before the Board ; if absent, to be taxed 25 cents, unless detained by illness.

XVII.

The books for annual subscription are to be placed in the hands of collectors in March ; collections to be made and books returned by 15th of June.

XVIII.

A child received as a boarder, when friends fail to pay, remove or indenture it, shall, after 6 months, be indentured by the Director of the Poor.

XIX.

Persons holding office in other Associations are not open to election, as the interest must necessarily be divided.

XX. VISITING COMMITTEE.

At each monthly meeting three ladies shall be appointed by the First Directress, called a Visiting Committee, whose duties will be to visit the Asylum at least once a week, and note any irregularity or mismanagement, and report the same at next meeting.

XXI. EMPLOYES

Will not be permitted to have children in the Asylum, unless as boarders.

XXII.

The Matron and Teacher are not permitted to absent themselves from the Asylum at the same time, the presence of one in the institution being indispensable.

REPORT.

The annual meeting of the Board of Managers of the Protestant Orphan Asylum was held January 10th at the Asylum, 842 Jefferson avenue.

Mrs. Lewis Allen, the first directress, submitted the following annual report :

To the members of the Ladies' Protestant Orphan Asylum of Detroit :

In making my annual report to you at the close of another year, it is gratifying to be able, by the blessing of God, to inform you of the general prosperity of the Asylum.

The respective duties of the maintenance committees, of our matron, Mrs. French, and of our teacher, Miss French, have been efficiently and harmoniously performed. The children have been unusually healthy, and have had the substantial comforts and amusements of a well ordered home. The grounds about the Asylum have been sodded, and greatly improved, and a garden cultivated under the superintendence and at the expense of our steadfast friend, Mr. Luther Beecher, and the buildings are in good condition and repair. We began the last year with thirty-four children, have received during the year, sixty-four and recalled two who had been placed in homes as candidates for indenture. Homes have been found for sixteen. The indentures of seven have been canceled, who have been surrendered to the parents who indentured them, their circumstances having so changed as to make it seem advisable to comply with their request. Two have been sent to the county-house that they might go to the State School at Coldwater, and forty-five, whom we have taken temporarily under our care, have been removed by their relatives or friends, leaving thirty now under our charge. This association

had its origin in 1836, and was reorganized under the general law in 1855. Its primary object was to provide an Asylum for destitute children under the age of twelve years, who had lost one or both parents, and place them as opportunity offered in eligible homes. During the fourteen years the present incumbent has held the position of first directress our records show that homes have been provided for 238 children, and the best information we can obtain leads us to believe that, with rare exceptions, they have been placed in situations where they have been, and are likely to be brought up to be reputable and useful citizens. The importance and beneficence of your work may, perhaps, be best realized by contemplating the lives of want, and, perhaps, degradation and shame, that, but for your care, would have fallen to the lot of very many, if not most of them. In the same time we have given a temporary home in the Asylum to 616 children, receiving from the parents or friends of some of them such small amounts for board as they could pay, and from others none at all. It has been suggested that the establishment of the "State Public School" for dependent children at Coldwater renders the longer continuance of this asylum unnecessary. This grand school, the only public one of the kind to be found anywhere, founded by the wise munificence of the State of Michigan, and to the lasting honor of its originators, will doubtless open its doors to many children, who would otherwise find a refuge here, but the act establishing it provides that no child shall be taken under four years of age, and I am informed by the President of the Board of Control, that further applications for admission from the county of Wayne will have to be refused, for want of room, until vacancies are made by the finding of homes for some of those already there, and that there is no probability of their being able in the future to receive all applicants from this county. You will see therefore that your work is not done, and that there is a necessity for the continued existence of this association.

It is made by our by-laws the duty of the First Directress to dispose of all children by "adoption, indenture or otherwise." The practice has been on the presentation of satisfactory references to give the child to the applicant on trial for four months, the

person taking the child having the right to return, and the association reserving the right to recall him or her before the expiration of that time. Experience has proven that it is not enough in all cases that good certificates of character be furnished, for very respectable men have not always the firmness to refuse them to a neighbor not entitled to them. Before an indenture is assigned information as to the character and fitness of the applicant other than that furnished in the certificates presented ought to be obtained. In previous years our experienced Secretary, Mrs. P. E. Curtis, has been active and successful in obtaining such information, but you will hardly expect from her such service in the future. It is therefore suggested that our by-laws be so amended that while the First Directress shall retain the exclusive right to give out the children on trial, on presentation of proper references, no indenture shall be assigned without the assent of the three directresses, upon whom shall be imposed the joint labors of procuring such information as will enable them to intelligently perform this duty. Your attention is called to the annual statements of the treasurer, Mrs. Lindsay, now presented, which will give you full and accurate information of our receipts and disbursements the past year, and show you to whom we have again been indebted for contributions. A few days before Christmas we distributed our bags, as in the year before, among our citizens, who have responded most generously to our call. Our gratification at this evidence of sympathy with us in our work and gratitude for the substantial aid furnished, cannot be overstated.

Our "Reserved fund" now amounts to the sum of \$10,500. It has been increased within a few weeks by a most generous contribution of \$500, given by Mrs. Charles Harris, New York city, as a memorial of her sister, the late Mrs. Jacob M. Howard, who was formerly a directress in the Asylum, and whose virtues and graces of character are fresh in the remembrance of many of us. If the principal of this fund is not encroached upon, as it is hoped it may not be, except in the last extremity, it is not doubted that it will in time be so increased by contributions, and legacies, as to give an income sufficient to meet the wants of the Association. It is still under the charge of Mr. A. C. McGraw, one of our Board of

Counsel, whose name is a sufficient guaranty for its security and proper management, and whose gratuitous services we fully appreciate. Our physician, Dr. Bradley, has placed us under additional obligations by another year's kind attendance upon our sick, without charge, for which we sincerely thank him. We are indebted to Gov. Bagley for an annual remembrance of our children at Christmas; to Mr. Thomas Barlum for frequent gifts of meats; Mr. Solomon Davis and Mr. Richard Fyfe for repeated services. Having served you as First Directress for many years, you will, I trust, excuse me from being again a candidate for re-election. I cannot sever my connection with the Association without bearing witness to the fidelity with which the ladies who have been associated with me have performed their various and laborious duties, gratefully thanking them for the uniform courtesy and kindness I have received at their hands, and expressing my warmest wishes for their individual welfare and the future prosperity of the Asylum.

J. L. ALLEN,
First Directress.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Annual subscriptions	\$537 20
Received for board	283 43
Received for Gough's lectures.....	449 50
Jan., 1877—Mr. J. W. Waterman.....	100 00
Jan., 1878—Mrs. J. W. Waterman	100 00
Madam Von Limburg.....	100 00
Jan., 1877—Mrs. F. B. Clark.....	25 00
Jan., 1, 1878—Mrs. F. B. Clark.....	25 00
First Presbyterian Church.....	52 50
Fort Street Presbyterian Church.....	17 55
First and Lafayette Avenue Baptist Church.....	15 70
Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church.....	15 00
Central Methodist Church	17 54
First and Second Congregational Church.....	10 00
Westminster Church.....	8 88
Police Force	10 00
Mrs. G. V. N. L��throp ..	20 00
Mrs. J. H. Wendell.....	12 00
Mrs. Thomas McGraw.....	10 00
Mrs. James E. Pitman.....	5 00
Mrs. A. Dudgeon.....	10 00
Mrs. Otto Kirchner.....	5 00
Mrs. G. P. Pease	2 00
Mrs. Charles Kent.....	2 00
Mrs. Joseph Warren.....	2 00
Annie King.....	1 00
Mrs. Dennis Davenport.....	1 00
Mrs. H. R. Johnson	1 00
Mrs. A. E. Bissell.....	1 00
Mrs. Heineman.....	2 00
Mr. Rudolph Hurst	1 00

Harry Jackson.....	\$ 25
Residue of Mr. Bagley's gift.....	3 25
Fines.....	31 00
Total.....	\$1,876 80
Balance in bank Jan., 1877.....	640 17
	<u>\$2,516 97</u>

EXPENSES.

Salaries.....	\$796 50
Meat.....	146 76
Groceries.....	356 95
Milk.....	44 00
Bread.....	66 95
Clothing.....	42 21
Boots and Shoes.....	23 50
Gas.....	38 57
Medicines.....	34 00
Fuel.....	238 50
Commission to collector	52 99
Carpets, window shades, etc.....	42 82
Printing, books, stationery, etc.....	42 18
Utensils.....	15 07
Repairs.....	95 30
Water tax	30 00
Insurance.....	61 00
Ice.....	7 50
Sundries by matron	19 25
Sundries by maintenance	5 88
Cleaning Chimneys.....	5 00
Paper bags and printing same.....	32 88
Total.....	\$2,200 81
Cash in bank	316 16
	<u>\$2,516 97</u>

MRS. A. G. LINDSAY,

Treasurer.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DIRECTRESS:

~~MRS. A. G. LINDSAY.~~

x Mrs E. A. Brush

SECOND DIRECTRESS:

MRS. T. K. ADAMS.

THIRD DIRECTRESS:

MRS. HENRY SMITH.

TREASURER:

MRS. D. R. SHAW.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS. P. E. CURTIS.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

MRS. R. H. FYFE.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN.—Mrs. Lewis Allen, Mrs. A. C. McGraw and Mrs. J. S. Farrand.

JEFFERSON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN.—Mrs. Luther Beecher and Mrs. J. M. Mann. *Mrs Helen Benson*

FORT STEET PRESBYTERIAN.—~~Mrs. A. G. Lindsay,~~ Mrs. John H. Wendell, Mrs. Charles Root and Mrs. Solomon Davis.

WESTMINSTER.—Mrs. R. F. Fyfe and ~~Mrs. Otto Kirchner.~~

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL.—Mrs. T. K. Adams and Mrs. D. R. Shaw.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL.—~~Mrs. D. M. Ferry.~~

ST. PAUL'S.—Mrs. P. E. Davis, Mrs. W. J. Chittenden and Mrs. Thomas Radcliff. *Mrs J. B. Boole*

GRACE CHURCH.—Mrs. A. Chesebrough and ~~Mrs. A. D. Dickinson.~~

x CHRIST CHURCH.—Mrs. A. H. Dey, Mrs. Henry H. H. C. Smith and Mrs. E. A. Brush.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—Mrs. B. G. Stimson, Mrs. Thomas McGraw and Mrs. James Aspinall.

CENTRAL METHODIST.—Mrs. James Burns, Mrs. H. R. Johnson, Mrs. James Fenton and Mrs. Henry Brace.

SIMPSON METHODIST.—~~Mrs. J. N. M. McCune.~~

FIRST BAPTIST.—Mrs. Henry Glover and Mrs. F. C. Kendrick.

LAFAYETTE AVENUE BAPTIST.—~~Mrs. Solon Prentiss,~~ Mrs. L. B. Willard and Mrs. Alvin O. Burt.

UNITARIAN.—~~Mrs. W. F. Parker and Mrs. Thomas W. Palmer.~~

Suffolk EMMANUEL CHURCH.—Mrs. Samuel Medbury and ~~Mrs. Milo A.~~

SWEDENBORGIAN.—Mrs. George L. Field.

